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Daily Telegraph

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CHERNENKO MESSAGE TO THATCHER

Arms talks briefing at Chequers

MRS THATCHER was given details of Russia's attitude towards next month's U.S.-Soviet missile negotiations in a personal message from President Chernenko yesterday.

Mr Chernenko's message was read out at a three-hour meeting at Chequers by Mr Gorbachev, the Kremlin's No. 2. The Prime Minister was clearly pleased with the results of the meeting, says OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT.

She is to brief President Reagan on the Chequers meeting next Saturday after a round-world diplomatic trip, starting today, which will take her to Peking for the signing of the agreement for the return of Hongkong to Hongkong itself, and then to Washington.

The importance Russia attaches to Mr Gorbachev's visit to Britain was shown last night when Russian television devoted five minutes of its news to it. Pravda said Mr Gorbachev was visiting Britain "with goodwill and good intentions."

Peking prepares—P4



THATCHER TO BRIEF REAGAN

By RICHARD BEESTON
in Washington

MR SHULTZ, the U.S. Secretary of State, has returned to Washington to report to President Reagan on his talks with Nato allies in Europe and begin the internal debate over American strategy at next month's Geneva arms negotiations.

Because of a deep split between Mr Shultz and the Pentagon, Mr Reagan is not expected to decide finally how forthcoming Mr Shultz should be with the Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko until a few days before the meeting of January 7.

"A smile was never far from his face," said a British source. Yesterday's talks, which lasted over an hour longer than scheduled, will be followed up today by more talks between Sir Geoffrey and Mr Gorbachev.

Concern over space weapons

The question worrying the Russians as they prepare for the Geneva meeting on Jan. 7 is between Mr Shultz, the American Secretary of State, and Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is the extent to which the Americans have determined to press ahead with the development of a new wave of space weapons.

Their first objective is to obtain an American moratorium on the tests of an advanced anti-satellite weapon beginning in March.

The United States is already well ahead of the Russians in all forms of "star wars" weaponry.

Mr Shultz has lengthy talks with Sir Geoffrey last week in which they covered the American approach to Geneva.

With Mr Gorbachev at Chequers were Mr Leonid Zaytsev, head of the Central Committee's International Affairs Department, and Mr Evgeni Votikhov who is regarded as an expert on space weaponry.

Mr Gorbachev clearly made a favourable impression on the British side. He was described as a very

impressive man of obvious authority and influence, relaxed and with a good sense of humour.

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Mrs Thatcher overcoming the language barrier when she asked Mr Gorbachev to change places with his wife Raisa for a photograph at Chequers yesterday.

'Special needs' aid may be cut

By FRANCES WILLIAMS Economics Correspondent

DRASTIC simplification of the supplementary benefits system, which could mean the abolition of special additions for heating and other needs in favour of higher basic benefit is expected to be recommended in the Government's social security reviews, now nearing completion.

Ministers are determined to reduce the complexity of the present system, which they believe means that many claimants go without benefits to which they are entitled. But they accept that reforms will entail some rough justice.

Many pensioners, together with the sick and disabled, who are now able to claim the biggest additions for special needs, will be worse off because the increase in the basic benefit will not be enough to offset the loss.

Officials are considering whether to incorporate the lower heating addition of £2-10 a week into the basic supplementary benefit rate.

The lower addition now goes to well over one-third of those on supplementary benefit, including the over-65s and families with pre-school children. People not receiving additions will gain from the move.

But the one-in-eight of claimants—about half a million people—now receiving higher additions for heating and other special needs, could lose £5 a week or more.

Means-tested benefit

Other reforms, under consideration in the four reviews, which are expected to go to the Prime Minister in late January or early February in time for action in the Budget, include a big increase in child benefit, coupled with means-testing for more affluent families; payment of family income supplement for poor working families through the tax system, and withdrawal of benefits from youngsters who refuse a Government training place.

The Cabinet Minister responsible for jobs, Lord Young, also favours cuts in young people's benefits.

His own review of employment prospects for youngsters expects to be sent to Mrs Thatcher at the same time.

The Social Services Secretary, Mr Fowler, has set four targets: simplification of the benefits system; more efficient targeting of benefits to those in need; the promotion of employment; and the encouragement of self-help.

Editorial Comment—P10.

BUCKS FIZZ MAN IMPROVING

Mike Nolan, 30, the Bucks Fizz singer injured in a crash last Tuesday, is improving, though he is still unconscious and his condition remains critical.

Continued on Back P, Col 5

FRAUD CASE

BRITON HELD

By Our New York Staff

A 50-year-old Briton wanted by Scotland Yard for breaking into a credit card standing in a motel near Los Angeles was said by the FBI to be facing 20 charges in a British court over his role in an alleged \$125,000 fraud. He has been charged with being a fugitive from another country and is likely to face deportation proceedings soon.

The "Americans should learn to speak with us fair and square," he said.

"To be fair means putting an end to lamentations about a Soviet military strategic superiority. One can prove anything by arbitrarily isolating separate elements of the strategic equation."

"The times when America was number one are never to return. This is a fact. But this does not mean at all that America has become number two."

He added: "People are sick and tired of confrontation. They wish to live in a tranquil atmosphere, without having to guess every day whether a war is going to break out or not. A war which is truly going to happen."

Tass' said: "Both sides expressed concern over the last one."

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LATE NEWS

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RACE YACHT CAPSIZE

The French trimaran Medecins Sans Frontieres capsized yesterday during the Transatlantic Columbus route.

William Tyrrell was said by the FBI to be facing 20 charges in a British court over his role in an alleged \$125,000 fraud. He has been charged with being a fugitive from another country and is likely to face deportation proceedings soon.

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GENERAL

SHARP FRONTAL

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London, S.E., C. S. E. ENGLAND,

E. ANGLIA, MIDLANDS, CHANNEL

ISLANDS: Rain, dry, bright

in afternoon. Wind S.

Westerly force 5 or 6.

W. force 5 or 6. See

moderate or rough.

S. W. ENGLAND, WALES: Rain clear-

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S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER:

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EUROPE, CHANNEL, E. WIND SW.

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S. GREECE'S CHANNEL, IRISH SEA:

Wind S. or N.W. force 6-7.

R. Sea very rough.

Overlook: Showers or longer bursts of rain. Becoming milder.

TURKEY CHARGES

Tour people will appear in

court at Grimbsy, Humberside,

today, charged with offences

arising from the alleged polluting

of Turkish waters in the owner's

Presto supermarket last week.

Today's Weather

GENERAL SITUATION: Sharp frontal

trough will move from the W.

London, S.E., C. S. E. ENGLAND,

E. ANGLIA, MIDLANDS, CHANNEL

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Weather maps—P12

Commons guest of MP defends IRA attacks

By A. J. McILROY and KENNETH CLARKE

A WOMAN convicted of terrorist offences in Ulster, who visited the Commons last month at the invitation of a Labour MP, said yesterday that the IRA was right to take its "struggle" to Britain.

Linda Quigley, 24, from Belfast, who went to the Commons on Nov. 28—about six weeks after the IRA bombing at the Grand Hotel, Brighton—said she supported the IRA's view that the British Government was a "legitimate target."

Miss Quigley denies she is a member of the IRA, or of its political wing, Sinn Fein.

She has been campaigning for an end to strip searches at the women's prison in Armagh, and has made frequent visits to Britain in that connection.

Yesterday she said she had collected "about three dozen signatures" on a petition, mostly from Labour MPs.

On her visit to the Commons, she was accompanied by Gerard

SOLDIERS ESCAPE CAR BOMB

By KENNETH CLARKE
in Belfast

A FAULTY timer on a 60-lb car bomb saved dozens of off-duty soldiers and their girlfriends from being killed in Ulster early yesterday.

The bomb exploded outside the "Dempsey" disco in Holywood County Down at 2.40 a.m. It was packed with nails, bolts and nails. It wrecked the disco, and broke windows over a wide area. People were showered with glass as the slept. But one was injured.

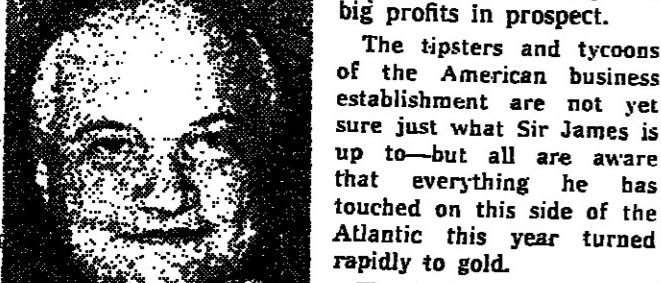
Earlier the disco had been packed with 200 dancers, many of them troops from the Palace Barracks, half a mile away. Police believe the bomb was timed to go off at 2 a.m., as the disco was closing and revellers were streaming out.

Sir JAMES IN NEW 'GOLDEN' U.S. SORTIE

By TONY ALLEN-JILLS in New York

SIR JAMES GOLDSMITH, the mercurial British financier, has set Wall Street talking with his fourth multi-million-dollar sortie of the year against a major American corporation.

His latest adventure—involving a big forestry products concern—bears all the Goldsmith hallmarks of secret manoeuvring with big profits in prospect.



Sir James Goldsmith—million dollar sortie.

5 SURVIVE 200ft CAR PLUNGE

FIVE people, including a three-year-old child, escaped with cuts and bruises when their car careered through motorway safety barriers on the Severn Bridge and plunged 200 ft at the weekend.

"To say they had a lucky escape is an understatement," said a police spokesman.

The Lancia car skidded out of control across the M4 and through two barriers on the Severn Bridge where it crosses the River Wye.

After its plunge down an embankment, the car came to rest on the banks of the Wye.

Mr Garry Smart, a 24-year-old ambulance man, who was one of the first on the scene of the Saturday-night crash, said:

"When we got down there the car was all folded in down to the size of a Mini."

"Somehow the car had gone through the crash barrier across a cycle path and then through the steel parapet fencing."

The driver, Sarinda Singh Rai, 25, of Southall, was kept in hospital overnight with back injuries. The passengers were named as Dip Gill, 40, Balbir Singh Gill, 27, Sukcharan Singh Gill, 25, all from Southall, and the child, Tarcharan Singh Gill, who came from Mid-Glamorgan.

News Round-up

Drunken students fined for chapel vandalism

TWO undergraduates at Brasenose College, Oxford, have been fined the maximum penalty by the college authorities and warned about their future conduct after admitting acts of vandalism in the 17th century college chapel.

The students, not named, lit altar candles and left them burning all night, with risk of a serious fire, piled hymn books on the altar and moved the Bible from the lectern.

Both are aged 19, and in their second year studying history and government. They were fined £50, and another £15 for a separate incident when they climbed on to the college roof to examine an ornate door.

Dr John Rowett, junior dean of the college, said: "Both undergraduates owned up the following day after they sobered up. Each wrote letters of apology to the college and the chaplain. It really was a drunken prank."

Youths sought in 'dead rider' hunt

Police investigating the death of a motorcyclist, killed when he rode into a neck-digging rope stretched across a road on Bournemouth's seafront, are looking for two youths, aged 16 to 18, seen near the crash scene late on Friday night.

The motorcyclist was Vincent Gabriel, of Undercliff Road, Bournemouth, who died on his 22nd birthday.

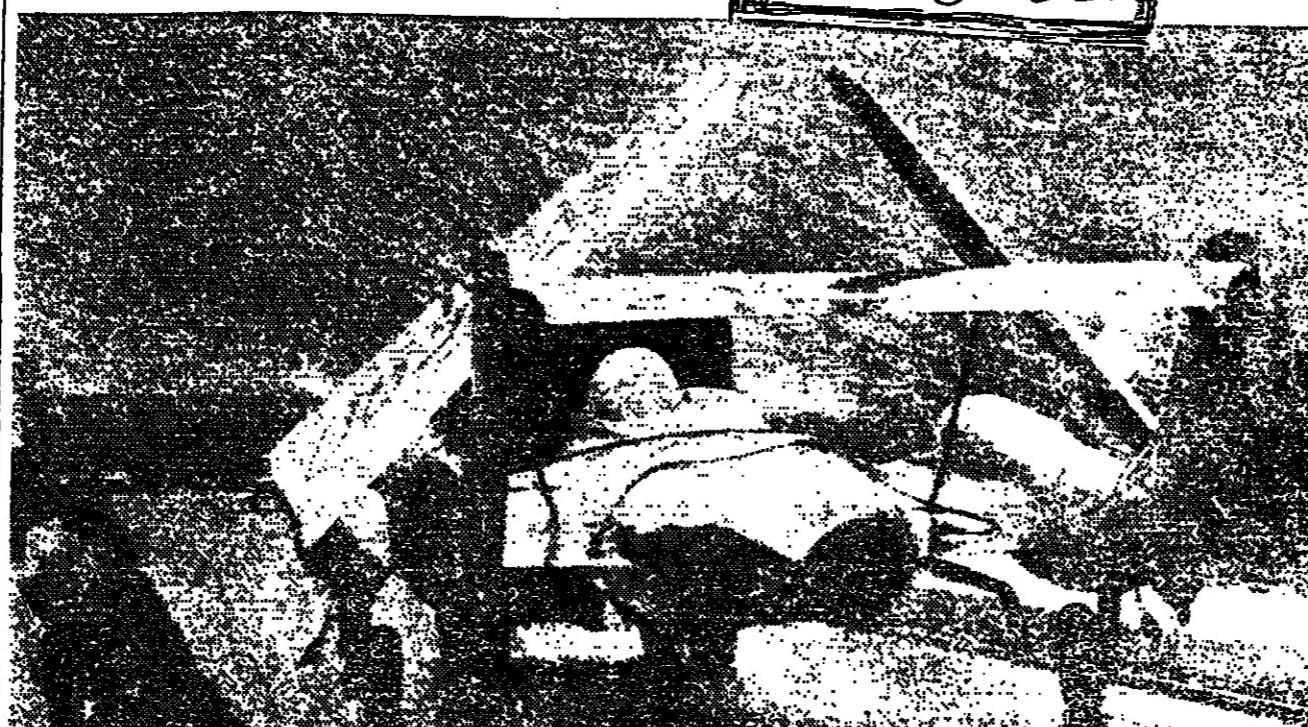
Yard hold man in Diego Garcia

Scotland Yard detectives investigating the murder of a civilian worker on the tiny military island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean have charged a Royal Marine.

The body of the Filipino, who works for an Anglo-American firm contracted to build harbour and runway facilities, was found inside the American base 11 days ago.

Greeks to question terror suspect

An Arab terrorist, wanted for questioning about a series of bomb explosions in



A Sea Vixen jet fighter being towed along a dual carriage way at Christchurch, Dorset, yesterday to the former site of de Havilland's factory, where it will stand as a memorial to the town's aviation past. A local property developer raised funds to buy the aircraft after Mr Michael Chaplin, founder of the Sea Vixen Society, read of the connection in old aviation magazines.

Bulgaria caught shipping counterfeit whisky

A BULGARIAN state trading company has been caught "red-handed"

By ROLAND GRIBBEN Business Correspondent

Industry highlighting the case today, is urging member companies to keep a closer watch on product counterfeiting attempts by Communist bloc and Far Eastern countries.

The whisky consignment was a complete "forgery" said the CBI, adding: "The labels, caps and card-board cases were counterfeit and the bottles closely resembled the standard Johnny Walker product."

The whisky was described on

pred. the state forwarding agency.

Requests from Distillers, the Johnnie Walker owners, to the Bulgarian Embassy in London to investigate the case and halt the remaining deliveries have failed to produce a response.

The CBI said that the evidence clearly showed the Bulgarian origin of the consignment.

The invoices were from a Sofia company and the transport documents showed the goods had been sent by Des-

cription.

This silence is disconcerting because counterfeiting is widely recognised as a blatant criminal fraud," it said.

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GREAT HALL IN PEKING READY FOR THATCHER

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

AMID a light but relentless snowstorm in Peking workmen spent hours clearing ice from the high steps of the Great Hall of the People yesterday in readiness for Mrs Thatcher's return to the Land of the Dragon.

She is to be given a 19-gun salute, and all is expected to run smoothly on Wednesday. On her last visit in October, 1982, she stumbled on the steps and fell to her hands and knees.

She was also drawn then into a tough confrontation with the Chinese communist hierarchy over its "sacred mission" to reclaim Hong Kong.

Teng Hsiao-ping, the main Chinese leader, was reportedly found Mrs Thatcher in a post-Falklands mood causing him to mutter to an aide: "I can't talk to this woman. She is utterly unreasonable."

Judging by the tone of the Peking Press off is now sweetness and light, however. Outlook, a leading political magazine published a flattering article last night congratulating Mrs Thatcher on being so farsighted.

A 'fellow-pragmatist'

China is preparing a brief but flawlessly orchestrated reception—ceremonial, ritual, ceremonial, and a fine banquet at which sea slugs are to be served—for a "fellow-pragmatist" of Teng.

Ag Ke Hua, a former Chinese envoy to the Court of St James, quietly observed at the weekend, Mrs Thatcher is now the toast of Peking. He called her "an outstanding woman with vision."

He said she had sized up the Hongkong situation and "fully understood" China's unique concept of maintaining the territory as a capitalist enclave in a Marxist state.

She then made a sensible policy decision not a critical juncture of the negotiations, thus pushing the Sino-British talks into a breakthrough," he added.

Ke Ambassador to Britain from 1978 to 1983, was referring to Mrs Thatcher's still controversial conclusion that it would be unwise to keep pressing Peking for a British role in the governing of Hongkong once it was back in Chinese hands in July, 1997.

Mrs Thatcher, in written replies to questions put to her in London by the New China news agency, described the so-called "one country, two systems" idea as imaginative. Both sides were determined

Geneva talks clear way for Genscher trip East

By MICHAEL FARR in Bonn

HERR GENSCHER, West German Foreign Minister, will this week try to resume Bonn's efforts to promote the East-West dialogue with a three-day visit to Prague.

His previous attempt was short-circuited last month when he was forced to cancel a visit to Warsaw only hours before his departure because of "unacceptable conditions" set by the Polish Government.

But officials in Bonn were optimistic about the Prague visit—his first since February 1983, going ahead in view of the recent signs of an improved climate between Washington and Moscow.

Apart from the Soviet-American agreement that their foreign Ministers should meet next month in Geneva for talks, a meeting of Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers in East Berlin earlier this month called for a return to detente, dialogue and negotiations.

A desire for a relaxation of East-West tension and a resumption

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Quiet burial for purged police chief

By NIGEL WADE
in Moscow

THE former Chief of Soviet Police, Mr Nikolai Shchelokov, 73, who was disgraced and facing possible trial for corruption, was buried quietly in Moscow at the weekend.

Witnesses of the unannounced ceremony, watched over by plainclothed security guards, said the coffin was sealed as it went to the grave on Saturday. Russian coffins are traditionally left open until the last moment before burial.

This suggests that Mr Shchelokov may have killed himself, but firm conclusions cannot be drawn.

Plainclothed guards were again present yesterday as relatives placed red wine and bread topped with red caviar at the graveside.

A simple metal plaque fixed in deep snow behind green railings said "Nikolai Anisimovich Shchelokov, died Dec. 13, 1984."

No death notice was published in the Soviet Press, where the most recent report about Mr Shchelokov, last month, was that he had been stripped of his rank as general.

Date of dismissed

Mr Shchelokov, a life-long crony of President Brezhnev, ran a notoriously corrupt civil police force as Minister of Internal Affairs for nearly 20 years.

He was the first to fall in President Andropov's anti-corruption drive. Mr Andropov sacked him a month after Mr Brezhnev's death in 1982.

He was replaced by one of Mr Andropov's former deputies in the KGB security organisation, Mr Vsevolod Fedorchuk. Mr Fedorchuk has since conducted a thorough house-cleaning within the civil police.

Mr Shchelokov was expelled from the Communist party's

Central Committee in June last year, and the recent stripping of his rank removed the last barrier to possible prosecution.

After appearing to falter in the early days of President Chernenko's term, the crackdown on corruption began by Mr Andropov has been carried forward decisively.

Another prominent regional paper, the ASIAN WALL STREET Journal, said it was "worth recalling" that China remained in practice a dictatorship "among the most repressive in the world" trying to control even the small decisions of daily life.

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NOTEBOOK: TIM HEALD

AT FIRST glance Grendon gives off very much the same vibes as one of our newer provincial universities: a garden campus neat with roses and pampas grass; boss man, a slightly shambling figure with long, greyish hair and a deer-stalker — clearly a renegade from All Souls; executive corridors busy with smiling girls clutching sheaves of paper; foundation stone laid by Lord ("Rab") Butler.

I spent a fascinating day there recently and one particular item reminded me every moment that the first glace impression is quite wrong. The Grendon equivalent of canned music is a jangling of keys on chains, for every member of the staff carries a heavy chain with keys attached to his trousers. Grendon is not a rural ivory tower. Grendon's inmates have burgled and raped, and assaulted and killed. Grendon is jail.

There are four adult wings at Grendon, which is between Aylesbury and Bicester, and two for young offenders. "B" wing has about 40 inmates and my hosts were Edgar Dearing, psychologist, and Alan Jackson, head hospital officer. They were the men in charge, although during the wing meeting the chair was taken by an inmate (drugs and burglary). Part of the Grendon experiment is to reverse traditional roles.

In a game of indoor hockey,

Signpost to the straight & narrow

Prisoners aren't sent to Grendon; they volunteer. Prison medical staff set the applications and when they first

their Christian names, their offences and their sentences: five years, three, arson, robbery with violence. It was like a macabre pastiche of "University Challenge." For: "I'm Fiona reading Greats at Christ Church," reads: "I'm Mac doing three years for manslaughter."

Then everyone had a go at Jim. Jim's sentence was almost over, and he was floundering. One of the others was telling him, persuasively, about Alcoholics Anonymous. Edgar sat silently in his gold-rimmed glasses listening attentively.

The atmosphere was intense, solemn, heavy with smoke from home-rolled cigarettes. A plastic jug of tea was passed round. Almost everyone seemed to have tattoos. Some hands and forearms were covered in crudely executed letters and designs. Some men spoke often, some were silent. No one seemed anything but serious and the concentration had a quality which reminded me oddly of a Quaker meeting.

Dead on the hour the group dispersed and spokesmen from all the others came in to report their meetings: a long, harrowing first-hand account of a murder at the end of which the murderer had broken down and wept; one man disgruntled because the Governor had been less generous over parole than he had expected; a third having a row with a prison officer but getting no support from his peers.

In the television room Edgar, the psychologist, was sitting on a corner sofa, listening unobtrusively as a dark-haired man with a moustache spoke vulnerably about his past life and his apprehensions about resuming it. He was very Scottish. "I do a burglary every day," he was saying. "It's my way of life. I do it for the alcohol." When he'd finished he looked up at me, smiled and said. "My name's Jim. I'm an alcoholic." He was in for burglary.

One by one the group told me

Where manana takes on a new meaning

At least some of the British community on the Costa del Sol are showing sang-froid amid all the recent reports of mugging and other unpleasantness: hundreds of people the British police would like to interview are staying on, undeterred by the news that Spain and Britain are going ahead with a tougher extradition treaty.

One jet-setter whose own past would not bear close scrutiny likened it to the British in wartime Singapore. The Brits then sipped pink gins, stroked tennis balls and conversed politely even as the Japs rushed south through the Malaysian peninsula.

When the warrant-bearing policemen and Inland Revenue inspectors eventually move south through the Iberian peninsula, some of the interesting characters will no doubt have gone; those staying on will have been seduced by inertia, *cada libre*, and an attachment for a sybaritic life in the sun.

Besides, a lot of those sought by the Yard believe, like Mrs Thatcher, in the property-owning democracy. One such who assured me he will not be leaving is Ronnie Knight, estranged husband of the "Carry On" actress Barbara Windsor. Police would like to see Knight, about £6 million in Shoreditch last year on Spanish Express, but he denies any involvement.

A short walk from Knight's villa with its spectacular views of the Mediterranean is another opulent home, this one belonging to Clifford Saxe, former landlord of the Fox in Kingsland Road, Hackney. There, it has been alleged, details of the Shoreditch raid were drawn up along with the pints—a claim Saxe has always strenuously denied.

Saxe is groved, bespectacled, wearing an open-neck shirt—one has made a point of calling before lunch but it is already

warm. In the V of the open neck glints a gold necklace of exceptional weight. From a deeply suntanned wrist whence dangles a chain of still greater weight, a finger threatens.

It points to the reinforced gate indicating my exit. Mr Saxe is not receiving visitors today.

The buzz on Knight and Co.

is that they have opened a bar in Los Buliches. It's Friday night so why not drop in? This was the Palladium Bar, renamed The Office. The reason becomes apparent when one sees men

who look like extras from "The Sweeney" swilling scotch and talking in Cockney rhyming slang.

They wear £500 leather jackets, with jewellery of exquisite bad taste, and have professionally manicured fingernails and hairstyles you see in barbers' windows. A woman wears a gold necklace with the legend "Doreen" in half-inch high capitals. About to engage one of Doreen's friends in conversation, my mouth goes dry and legs feel weak. Chicken, I leave, my beer unfinished.

In the 100 years of Britain's previous extradition treaty with Spain, 14 Britons were in fact returned by Spain, while only one went the other way, despite 44 applications for extradition by the Spanish authorities. Spain, therefore, can hardly be blamed for tearing up the treaty.

In economic terms that must have helped her. No one can estimate the sums of money "laundered" through Spain, but it is said that, for instance, the Shoreditch cash bought property worth at least £1 million. Larousse being allegedly part of the proceeds from a £40 million VAT gold racket. Meanwhile Judah

Binstock, wanted for inquiries in connection with an alleged £2 million currency swindle, throws lavish parties at his £500,000 Marbella villa.

At Marbella one breakfasts at the Coffee Dock pavement café to watch the world and a hood or three go by. The café forms part of Parque Marbella, a luxury block with views over the port. This is where three of Knight's buddies—Freddie Foreman, John Everett and John Mason—have between them bought eight £70,000 apartments.

Then to Puerto Banus. This is sort of Torremolinos for the middle classes. Luxury yachts cram the marina. Many are said to be the rewards of sun bought by landlubbers to "launder" money.

The sex industry has a firm leg hold here. At the Ly Sauna-massage parlour (above the No-No-Sexy International Night Club) the charge is £50, payable by credit card. "But here we do everything," says a severely underdressed girl.

The Navy disco-bar in Puerto Banus. One o'clock in the morning. Enter Brian Doran, sought by Glasgow police for nearly 18 months in connection with cocaine smuggling charges. My offer of a drink is declined. One of four minders, like Doran with a strong Glaswegian accent, says: "F—off." A girl is persuaded to approach Doran. Her offer of a dance is rejected, but one of the group gallantly agrees—only, it transpires, to sue me out.

To palm-tree San Pedro to catcrash an engagement party. The venue is the Mezon San Pedro, a chic canteen in the main square. One of the joint owners is John Edensor, big, bluff, bearded and amusing. Edensor came here soon after the old extradition treaty ended in

1978. The Treasury wanted to question him about the sudden collapse of a company.

"I'm in the clear," says the managing director, Manuel Martin, described Chatwin as:

"One of our better salesmen—he has many rich contacts in England, but he's a bit over-optimistic. He over-sells. We have to put the brake-on him."

Big spenders are not uncommon. One man I met in Tio Sam's is Torremolinos, a neighbour of Clifford Saxe. Said:

"We were all down the Capelania beach bar the other day and in breezes Saxe. It's all on him, he says—boozie till it comes out of your ears and as much as you can eat. How can you knock a guy like that?"

Many crimes in this sunny spot for shady characters are drug related. Some 800 Spanish and British residents of Niria recently staged a meeting to protest at shotgun-armed drug addicts. One of the problems is that the Costa falls on a main trafficking route.

Malaga police are keen to emphasise that they are completely full of Scotland Yard, who have three men posted there, one Spanish-speaking. The soaring crime rate includes the making of particularly unsavory pornography involving minors and violent street crime, often with tourists as the victims, sometimes ending in murder.

The civil governor, Senor Plaudo Conde, took us to his home. "We are not going to let the Costa del Sol become Marseilles." By one of life's rich ironies, when I returned to my car from his office I found a side window smashed and all contents removed. In an attended car park. Perhaps the Costa del Crimen really is the bit of Spain that fell off the back of a lorry.

And another: "I went to a party yesterday and someone

just pointed round the room—a pornographer there, a City swindler next to him, a crooked arms dealer in the same group. A tax dodger there—well, tax dodgers are everywhere here."

The spirit of laissez-faire seems to be epitomised by the fact that Robert Chatwin is able to land a job selling villas. His managing director, Manuel Martin, described Chatwin as:

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ages many thousand acres for the centre of Britain, separating the arable east from the animal west. It has many blurred edges—mixed farms and shared interests—but the East Anglian grain baron and the Dyfed dairy farmer have no more in common than the unemployed Liverpool docker and the South Wales commuter of the political class.

That is only true on good land. The Minister has said that people growing corn on poor land "will have to consider alternative enterprises." More resentful stems from the fact that the three obvious alternatives—beef, sheep and milk—are all in surplus. Similarly, for many dairy farms, there is no obvious alternative to milk. On good land, however, corn, oilseed rape, vegetables, all kinds of crops are possible.

The contrast between prosperous east and quagmire west is a point to remember when the Ministry of Agriculture produces figures, as the average farm income in 1984 was 20 per cent up. There has already been flooding.

There is no such thing as an average farm. The dry summer, which brought such excellent crops, for the arable land, brought only a serious shortage of grass for the cow-keeper.

The differences were plain inside Earl Court during Smithfield week. The livestock farmers at the back of the cattle lines were nervous of the future and still simmering about the injustices of the year. The arable men were busy in the machinery lines, keen to buy tractors and combines before the clamp-down on capital allowances and corporation tax in April.

Such accountants' niceties are of no interest to dairy farmers. In this year, the cut in their incomes means many of them will have no profits to spend. While at least one East Anglian supplier of arable machinery used the word "boom" at Smithfield, my dairy equipment supplier in Dumfries has no work for his one remaining fitter.

I felt the contrast particularly strongly because I travelled to Smithfield from the Galloway farm. At exactly the moment that the show was opening, the gleaming machines receiving their final polishes and the cattle their last shampoos and blow-dries before stepping on to the white sawdust of the pristine ring. I was in Scotland staring into what is euphemistically known as the slurry tank, although there are crudier names for it.

The rain was sheeting in off the Solway as if it would never stop and three of us stood with our shoulders hunched against the downpour, wondering why the slurry would not budge. Were we really part of the industry depicted at Earl Court?

The cows in Scotland have been housed for some weeks now. They now lose in a big building built over them. They lie in cushioned cubicles, but their dung falls through slats in the passages and is stored in the tanks whence it is pumped and spread on the fields.

That Monday morning the pump would not move it and over the weekend the tide of slurry had risen slowly and relentlessly towards the slates. The Pimlico line was close. Mud, muck and muddle—precisely the grain baron's view of the cow-keeper's life.

JOHN BARBER

PLAYS AND PLAYERS

IN LIGHT entertainment the man of the year must be Ray Cooney. As a manager, he has taken on the once abandoned Shaftesbury Theatre and made it a humongous success. As a producer, he has brought one or two notable shows into his second theatre, the Ambassadors. As an author, he has written the funniest farce of the decade, "Two Into One," while elsewhere in London his "Run For Your Wife" has now run for two years.

A tireless worker, he owes the success of "Two Into One" to three years' work. Playing the leading role himself, he tried it out at Leicester, then at Guildford—testing every laugh, rewriting all the time. For the West End he re-directed it and cast a star actor (Donald Sinden) and one wretched in farce (Michael Williams), taking a chance on the pair for the unlikely reason that they had worked so well together as King Lear and the Fool at Stratford-upon-Avon.

A modest, sunny personality who learned his trade at the Whitehall with Brian Rix, Mr Cooney explains a farce's difficulty, in a permissive age, in devising situations with any genuine shock value. How did he manage it? In "Run For Your Wife" his hero is silly enough not to tell his girlfriend he is married. So to keep her happy, he marries her bigamously—and bigamy is a criminal offence.

In "Two Into One," his hero

is a married Government Minister who takes one of Mrs Thatcher's secretaries to a hotel for an afternoon's nooky, and is threatened with public exposure—an idea which improves nicely on the first version, when he was an actor. "I realised," says Mr Cooney, "that audiences think actors carry on immorally all the time. It adds to the fun market and highly respectable."

Farce is a strict comic form not wholly understood, on recent showing, by eminent theatrical gurus. At the National, I found Feydeau's "A Little Hotel on the Side" unaccountably limp. Timothy West and Prunella Scales lately scored a disaster in Bamberg Gascoigne's "Big in Brazil." Mr Cooney did not see the play, but understands how this could happen.

Because what my characters are doing is so outrageous, he says, "we spend a lot of time trying to make each of them wholly credible. Michael Williams would be acceptable in a straight play as a serious civil servant. Linda Hayden could be the P.M.'s secretary. Donald Sinden has the dignity and weight for a Minister. I spend a lot of time discouraging actors from putting on funny accents, moustaches and beards. They ring me up with bright Classical actors are accustomed

to hiding behind false noses, wigs, glasses, stutters, blank verse. My plays totally expose you because the language is so ordinary—no word over three syllables—I left school at 14! We play everything absolutely straight, for real. The characters have got to do nothing other than serve the plot!"

I criticised Mr Cooney sharply for the low quality of some of the plays he put on at the Ambassadors this year, especially as in the past he has promoted serious, unbearables plays like James Saunders's "Bodies" and Tom Kempinski's "Duet For One." He agrees. He admits he took on too much in leasing the Ambassadors with the object of developing new writers by putting on a new play there every six weeks.

So he has decided to give up his lease, though he still feels dedicated to unearthing new popular talent (which he sees as the theatre's "dirtiest need") through his Theatre of Comedy company. But he will put on the plays as he finds them, in any small theatre available. He is as aware as anyone of the excellent writers lately discovered by Hampstead, E. With two hits on his hands, he now looks forward to finding time to earn promising work towards bigger West End audiences.

GEOFFREY FLETCHER'S LONDON

Changing faces

IN MY book, there is no such thing as a redundant church—although there may be some clerics who ought to be made redundant. One church in London which has comfortably escaped the "redundant" label by merely, as it were, changing its congregation, is the London University Church of Christ the King in Gordon Square, the well-advertised heart of Bloomsbury.

Built by R. Brandon, this was formerly the Catholic Apostolic Church, belonging to the community who gathered round Edward Irving, Carlyle's friend and a preacher of such tremendous power that when he was preaching the streets were said to be blocked with carriages.

Brandon was one of the most scholarly and gifted of the earlier Gothic Revivalists—much more, so than Pugin, who was largely a designer and decorator—and his great church built of Bath stone in 1851-53, though unfinished (the tower and spire were never completed) is a most remarkable recreation of Early English style.

When it changed its alle-



centres and the warehouses of our great ports are transformed into flats, tourist attractions and museums, we have in fact, an index to a profound internal upheaval and a national degeneration.

It is true that at the Reformation abbeys and convent buildings were turned into cowsheds and that the railways pushed the stage coach system out of business, but these moments are a sign of life. What we have today is something quite different and very nasty.

JAMES GLADSTONE

Land of haves and have-nots

Divided Britain extends to agriculture

The division runs down the centre of Britain, separating the arable east from the animal west. It has many blurred edges—mixed farms and shared interests—but the East Anglian grain baron and the Dyfed dairy farmer have no more in common than the unemployed Liverpool docker and the South Wales commuter of the political class.

Those of us in the west who rely on livestock and grow wheat and barley on land that is hardly suitable for it, have a picture of the easy arable life that is distorted by jealousy. What does the corn man do all winter? We are still feeding sheep and milking cows? We like to think that the only division he faces, once the shooting season is over, is whether to milk on good land, however, corn, oilseed rape, vegetables, all kinds of crops are possible.

That is only true on good land. The Minister has said that people growing corn on poor land "will have to consider alternative enterprises." More resentful stems from the fact that the three obvious alternatives—beef, sheep and milk—are all in surplus. Similarly, for many dairy farms, there is no obvious alternative to milk. On good land, however, corn, oilseed rape, vegetables, all kinds of crops are possible.

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THE ARTS

THEATRE / McKellen the magnificent

WHEN Ian McKellen climbs down from the back of the large Olivier stage as hero of the new modern dress "Coriolanus," his tall insolent figure is immaculate from head to foot in white. His tailored elegance seems insulting in a stage crowd of plebeians in sloppy sweaters and jeans. He addresses them as curs, flicking contempt at an aside worthy of John McGroarty.

The actor suggests not only the immature boy in the rock-leather jacket, but also the dandified boy who, unable to bring himself to kowtow, even to win a consoling shout, his anger-teeth vulpine, with lungs like a trumpet bellows, serving a voice like a battle clarion.

But then the denunciation that follows his banishment from Rome is delivered quietly, hands clasped, with a disgust beyond all rage. And when he cracks at last under pressure, pleading, and for an age, the shame-faced boy "holds her by the hand, silent," in Shakespeare's most famous stage direction, a deeply thoughtful Coriolanus grows up as we watch and becomes human, and so has to be killed. It is a magnificent performance.

Always pronouncing the name

John Barber



Ian McKellen in the title role of "Coriolanus" at the Olivier Theatre.

TELEVISION

Threatened by a wedge of soap

JOHN REITH, the BBC's founding father, was very partial to a wee dram of Latin. Gentlemen who kept a Latin tag over their doorways had substance, he believed, and were to be taken seriously. At crucial moments the BBC wishes it to be understood that Reithian values are maintained and that the nation should not consider dismantling the tradition that has given us "the best broadcasting system" in the world.

Thus last week, when the chairman and the director-general met under the chairmanship of the assistant director-general (Alan Protheroe) to put the public-case for a £65 colour licence fee, they began in Latin. "The long-awaited day arrives," said Mr Protheroe. In Latin. At which point he thought he detected smiles on the faces of the past directors-general whose portraits decorate the Broadcasting House council chamber.

Sir Hugh Greene, placed directly above the assistant director-general, who opened windows between 1960 and 1969, did indeed suggest a mischievous smile. The expressions worn by his successors lined up on his left looked more strained. They found it even harder to maintain the tradition, now threatened as never before.

It may be argued, in this column, it often is, that this or that internal BBC decision has

betrayed its heritage. This Monday, for a change I worry about the threat from outside, from an alliance of those with a vested interest in the wrong kind of change and those whose only real feeling about broadcasting is that the BBC is too big and too proud and should be humbled. That is an alliance between the advertising industry and politicians practical or envious.

The chances are that next March the Home Secretary will announce a new licence fee to be pegged for three years, and that it will be less than the BBC believes it needs.

A few hours after Mr Protheroe had demonstrated his Latin to the scholars, Mrs Thatcher, also noting that "the long-awaited day arrives," signalled her conviction that the BBC should eventually seek revenue through advertising. On Saturday, her friends Saatchi and Saatchi presented the result of a survey showing that 70 per cent of the population agrees with her.

They do not lack support either in Cabinet or on the back benches. It is understandable that Tony MP's like John Gorst and Tim Brinton, champions of market values, should want a commercial BBC. Though this group also wants television to pay a levy to the cinema, despite the preference of most consumers for domestic viewing of films. Less understandable is not a medium to inform, educate and entertain, much

less an art medium. "It is a medium for selling soap," among other consumer products, and everything follows from that.

Commercial competition between the BBC and ITV would mean that the winner was the channel best at shifting soap. It could also mean that, to the delight of the advertising agencies, prices would drop. So the broadcasters would need more and more commercials to avoid bankruptcy. A crisis would develop during which the present viewer in our television services, however thin, would disappear.

The lowest common denominator would finally have vanquished the Reithian tradition.

The worst would not happen instantly. There would be a British compromise restricting commercials to BBC1 and ITV 1 as a booster to the BBC next asked for an increase in the fee. The Government would instead allow them more advertising. The wedge, thin and thick, would be in place.

Do not take my word for all this. Listen to Paul Fox, the managing director of Yorkshire, as fierce a competitor as he is to be at the BBC. In a straight advertising battle between the BBC and ITV "I wouldn't like to say who will win, but I know who will lose."

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Sean Day-Lewis

less. Grave difficulties for the TV and Channel 4 system would soon follow. There is simply not enough advertising revenue to go round, they believe.

Whatever the truth of this, there is a much stronger argument against the BBC advertising lobby. It was pungently made last week by two highly successful American television writers participating in the Channel 4 documentary "Cal Among Lions." They are part of the success story of the up-market Mary Tyler Moore company, but have not let that mislead them. In the United States, they agreed, television is not a medium to inform,

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A TIME TO SEE THE LIGHT AS FASHION AT LAST TEAMS THE CASUAL WITH THE SPORTY



Pictures by
ANTHONY MARSHALL

PICTURED:

From left to right: Pastel pink and grey jacket with black webbing belt by Cosmic £67.95; grey racing pants by Skins £79.95; grey racer gloves by Event £33.95; pink sunglasses £19.95; pink pouch bag £5.50; pink gaiters £4.95; all from Du Sport, King's Road, London SW3; grey, pink and white mouse earmuffs £4.95 from Fenwick, London W1.

Tiger-printed, padded cotton gilet in subtle grey, turquoise, yellow and white £139.95 (not shown, matching tiger-print trousers £119.95) both by Jet Set; grey ribbed cotton knit top with high drawstring neck by Luhta £34.95; all from Lillywhites; pastel knit Arab-style head-dress by Steffner £15.95, from Du Sport.

Puffy sunray jacket in black, white and royal blue with red rising sun motif on back £39.99; red stirrup pants £25; red, white and blue cowl necks twisted together £7.99 each; padded red hat £3.25; all from C. & A. branches; red and navy mitts by Killy £24.90, from Alpine Sports, Kensington High Street, London W8.



YOUR biggest problem on the ski slopes this year could be making sure that other people can see you coming.

For the high-fashion colour of the season is snow - camouflage white, something which old mountain hands would regard as very imprudent wear. Luckily it is almost always enlivened with other vivid shades and as a base colour, gives plenty of scope for interesting accessorising.

Apart from a general feeling of lightness and brightness - pastel mixes are also important especially if printed - the other main skiwear story is versatile layers.

Buying a whole new outfit for the slopes is no small investment and, sensibly, manufacturers are now concentrating on multi-purpose items that can be teamed with non-ski clothes for après-ski or for casual occasions at home.

Because of this new coordinates mood, the highly-technical one-piece is taking a back seat fashion-wise, though serious skiing buffs may still prefer it.

It has been rather ousted by the new ski trousers that made to fit without the high bib-front of the old ski salopettes, can also do off-slope wear.

They appear in many different guises, from the traditional stretch racing pants with braces (not flattering, except for the willowy), through posturalistic, slouchy-footed styles to a generously-cut fatigues shape, usually belted and with lots of pockets.

Newest-looking shape in this style teams with a pull-on, sweatshirt-based top.

French designer Henri Duvillard takes the idea further by giving his sweatshirt proofed and padded nylon sleeves for good-weather wear, plus an equally-padded over-gilet to keep out snow and cold.

Another plus point for British skiers this year is the ever-increasing variety of skiwear shops and the efforts they are making not to duplicate their stock by having certain ranges on an exclusive basis. This has led to a sense almost of competition between buyers as they search out new and interesting ranges - sadly mostly from abroad - and this eventually can only be good for the consumer.

For instance, Du Sport, a new skiwear shop in London's King's Road

IT'S WHITE WITH A DASH FOR DAYS ON THE SLOPES

which, its owners hope, will be the first of a small chain, has introduced the budget-priced well-designed Cosmic range to Britain.

It also has the wide-shouldered, high-fashion Skins range, the matt cotton and sweatshirting utility styles in bright

budget Finnish ranges like Luhta (particularly stylish this year) and Finn Skins.

Alpine Sports has well-known ranges like Ellesse and Killy and the best-selling Neveira plus Hechter's wonderful, functional grey and white shapes in professed, crushed, silky fabric.

Some shops, notably Moss Bros, say it

now finds most people prefer to buy

and its hire business is quite small.

However, it has an ex-

tensive range for hire, for both adults and children, based on a price of £14.50 for either jacket or trousers for a 10-day period. It will also do hire packages for school parties. Its retail side includes both high-fashion and technically-advanced names like HCC, SOS, Event and Luhta.

Apart from this, hiring skiwear for children is difficult.

This seems particularly tough on parents sending children on first school parties. They may find themselves spending out on a complete kit for what proves to be a one-trip wonder. Begging and borrowing seem to be the answer, and some schools have a system for this.

Some more adventurous dress agencies who cover sportswear will often take one-trip-worn skiwear. For instance, the Frock Exchange at Kimbolton in Cambridgeshire suggests parents buy an inexpensive outfit from, say, C & A and, if it is suitable and cleaned, they will recycle it within the same season. Agencies like this are also a good source from which to buy an inexpensive outfit.

BY AVRIL GROOM

colours from Anzi Besson, and a very comprehensive accessory range.

Lillywhites headed the battle for exclusivity last year with its much-expanded skiwear department and still has some of the most exciting styles around from top names like Jet Set, Allsport, and Peter Steinbronn as well as very good coverage of

Snow and Rock, in turn, has Luhta and other well-known names plus big, bright or pastel survival-gear shapes from the Swedish Big Ski label.

Simpson is for upmarket customers with one of the best selections from the Head range, plus HCC, Ellesse and Killy.

For first-timers and any skier on a budget, the

chainstores are an excellent option, with C & A still away ahead of the field on style for price. It also has an excellent and imaginative accessory range.

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OFF PISTE, ALL-CHANGE FOR APRES-SKI

A PRES-SKI and on-slope wear are almost interchangeable these days: versatile, layered ski-gear can easily be co-ordinated to look good around your day's exercise, while this year's padded-cotton, pastel, survival-wear styled casual clothes could double as the slopes.

Another relaxing and perennial apres-ski theme is the tracksuit style: great for lounging in your hotel with a post-ski hot chocolate or glühwein.

Best Company's American-

style ski motif sweatshirts, available from Lillywhites, are very chic, and Adidas has a whole new range of pastel styles with geometric motifs plus cross-country ski outfits that can do apres-ski duty.

Any of these would be fine in, for example, the casual atmosphere of the bar at the Hotel de Verbier in Verbier.

Verbier is well known as one

of the most challenging ski areas in the Alps and of the purpose-built resorts it is one of the prettiest, scrambling up a steep south-west-facing slope and with even the newest buildings in chalet style.

It's also the kind of place where you feel comfortable in the sort of apres-ski clothes that can double for winter city wear here: this year, big soft coats, best in bold checks and voluminous in shape, over sleek pants and soft, bright sweaters.

Accessories have a Fifties air: snoods, cowls and berets, with sunglasses - black and mysterious or aviator-style - de rigueur in even the weakest sunshine. Grip-soled boots are essential if you value unbroken limbs: this year's are low and chunky and uncompromisingly white or black.

This look is right for Verbier's smarter apres-ski haunts such as the Mill Bar, famous for its mulled wine and hot chocolate with whipped cream in self-indulgent bowls. It is also right for some of the more ethnic restaurants like Au Vieux Valais (where two courses of dried mountain ham and wonderful fondue or raclette, plus wine, are excellent value at about £8).

But you will want something grander if you try the delights of the sophisticated restaurants at the Rossini Hotel. Owner Roland Pierrot has turned eating into a sublime gastronomic experience and has thus gained himself three stars from *Gault-Millau*, the famous French gourmet magazine. Eight sumptuous courses will set you back £40. But what a way to celebrate Christmas!

French designer Henri Duvillard takes the idea further by giving his sweatshirt proofed and padded nylon sleeves for good-weather wear, plus an equally-padded over-

gilet to keep out snow and cold.

Another plus point for British skiers this year is the ever-increasing variety of skiwear shops and the efforts they are making not to duplicate their stock by having certain ranges on an exclusive basis. This has led to a sense almost of competition between buyers as they search out new and interesting ranges - sadly mostly from abroad - and this eventually can only be good for the consumer.

For instance, Du Sport, a new skiwear shop in London's King's Road

London W1. White apres-ski boots with grey lacing by Technic £33.50, from Alpine Sports, Kensington High Street, London W8.

White, padded cotton jacket with clip fastenings £27.99, matching padded pants £22.99, both from Solo branches. Hand-knit reindeer and snowflake motif sweater in off-white and charcoal with bright flecks, by Street Clothes £5.95, creme cowi headress £5.95, both from Fenwick.

Molto, £130 from Jones, King's Road, London SW3; Ice, St. Christopher's Place, London W1 and Warehouse of Glasgow. Panda earmuffs £4.95 and Fair Isle gloves £3.45, both from Fenwick.

Chunky wool car-coat in black and chestnut dogtooth check £109, plain black wool-mix trousers £59, black

and chestnut Nordic-style shawl-collared sweater in wool and angora £59, from Alder branches. Black coat by Kangra £4.95, black gloves £2.95, both from Fenwick. Black neck-cowl £7.99 from C. & A. branches. Thirties' earrings by Polini from a selection at Scruples, Beauchamp Place, London SW3 and Liberty.

What you leave in your Will could make the difference between life and death to the old.

Throughout the Third World, there are poverty-stricken old people for whom every day is a struggle against hardship and infirmity. Without friends or family to turn to, many could die without proper help.

But by remembering Help the Aged in your Will, you can help transform their lives.

And it doesn't just have to be money. Almost anything you're kind enough to leave us can be used to benefit the old.

If you'd like to know more about remembering the old in your Will, send off the coupon for our free information pack.

To: The Hon. Treasurer,
The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayhew-King,
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FREEPOST, London EC1B 1BD.

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Postcode



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Pledge on famine aid as Minister sees Belsen' babies

By R. BARRY O'BRIEN in Addis Ababa

SKELETAL babies and children were shown to Mr John Stanley, Armed Forces Minister, when he visited a hospital in an Ethiopian famine area over the weekend. "This is worse than anything in Belsen or Buchenwald," said Squadron Leader Dr Keith Croft, medical officer of the RAF detachment, who accompanied him.

After his three-day tour Mr Stanley said: "Undoubtedly it is going to be necessary to maintain a high level of famine relief aid to Ethiopia both on the food side and the medical side right through 1985."

"The British Government is going to be making a significant contribution to that."

It was in the north Ethiopian town of Makale that Mr Stanley saw the "Belsen" babies. He flew there in a RAF Hercules 130 from the Red Sea port of Assab with a load of Canadian wheat.

Screaming with pain

In Makale he visited an International Red Cross children's feeding centre, a camp containing more than 16,000 famine victims, and the hospital where an Ethiopian paediatrician Dr Berhane Endeshaw showed him a series of children, third or a quarter of their correct weight, too malnourished and weak to stand up.

All would need a year's intensive feeding as inpatients



in the hospital to have a chance of recovery, the doctor said.

Squadron Leader Croft examined some of the children as the Ethiopian doctor held them up. They were screaming and crying with pain.

"I have never seen anything like this," Squadron Leader Croft said. "They have obviously not eaten for a very long time."

10,000 live in open

At the nearby Red Cross feeding centre Mr Stanley saw scores of happier, smiling children on their way to recovery. One child was yelling as nurses painted his body with a treatment for lice and scabies.

At the camp, the Minister was told 10,000 people were living in the open. Mr Fekadu, chief administrator of Tigray region, said plastic sheeting for cover was of no help because there were no poles available to support it. "The countryside is completely bare," he said.

Ethiopian relief workers said the death toll at the camp had risen from around five to 16 a day because of pneumonia following the heavy rains last week.

Before flying back to Britain

Extradition deal with Spain 'by the summer'

By TIM BROWN in Madrid

BOTH British and Spanish diplomats and legal experts were confident at the weekend that agreement is now in sight for a new extradition treaty between the two countries to go into force in the summer.

FEW STORES DEFY SUNDAY TRADE LAW

By BRENDA PARRY

THE pre-Christmas rebellion by big stores against the much-publicised Sunday trading laws appeared to have largely fizzled out yesterday.

After the Audit Report last month recommended the scrapping of the legal restrictions it was widely expected that all those opposed to the law would open their doors.

But the Habitat chain, owned by Sir Terence Conran and Debenhams, who had both publicised their intention to open on the two Sundays before Christmas bowed to pressure, including the threat of legal action by local authorities and reversed their decision last Wednesday.

Woolworths, who own the B and Q chain of do-it-yourself shops, also said on Thursday they would abandon opening on Sundays.

Sainsbury's, however, opened 13 of their 23 Homebase stores sticking to the policy they adopted three years ago that they would open whenever the local authority was not opposed.

One of the do-it-yourself shops owned by W. H. Smith's Do-It-All — opened in Cheadle Hill, Manchester, which has a high Jewish population.

And in Plymouth, a city centre branch of Halfords, the motor parts specialists, reported good trading when it opened this morning.



STUN GUN WORRIES POLICE

By TONY ALLEN-MILLS
in New York

DALLAS police are using "stun guns" the size of an electric razor as a non-lethal method of subduing suspects who struggle when being arrested.

But the hand-held high-technology weapons, which disrupt the nervous system by causing temporary weakness, were deemed in New York to be likely to prove "more trouble than they were worth" and were rejected.

A Police Department spokesman said yesterday that senior New York officers were worried about the effects electrical shocks might have on suspects with bad hearts or of generally nervous dispositions.

The gun works by shooting out an electrical discharge which interrupts messages from the brain to the muscle, causing the muscles to contract.

Its manufacturer, Nova Technologies Inc., of Austin, Texas, claims that a three-second discharge from the gun applied to a suspect's abdomen, would cause knees to buckle and leave the victim disorientated for 10 to 15 seconds — enough time to clip on the handcuffs.

Lawsuit fear

But police doctors in New York issued a warning that the gun might prove dangerous to people in poor health especially anyone with a heart problem.

If a suspect died from the electrical shock, the Police Department might be faced with a multi-million dollar lawsuit, irrespective of whether the suspect turned out to be guilty or innocent.

"I think they were worried most that people might get killed instead of getting arrested," the New York spokesman said.

Nova Technologies claims that the gun is no danger, even to people with heart problems.

Dallas police have agreed to continue experimenting with the gun. Police Captain Rick Stone described the effect as "not a painful experience, but not a pleasant one."

Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, will give the "Thought for the Day" tomorrow, and on Wednesday and Thursday, while James Fox will read "The Christmas Story" on Christmas Day.

The daily service is to be extended and there will be meditation every night in Christmas week along with two carol services including the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve.

The teachings of Jesus according to Captain Beaky and his friends take to the air in "The Woodland Gospels," a special radio adaptation of Jeremy Lloyd's best-selling book on Sunday.

On Christmas Day "Other Peoples' Holiday" will look at the attitude of non-celebrants — Hindus, Moslems, Jews, Buddhists and atheists.

Det. Chief Supt. Tony Hill, in charge of the investigation, said the description matched that of a man being sought for the rape of a 15-year-old girl a few miles away on Nov. 25.

ITV blows whistle on 'World of Sport'

By ROBIN STRINGER TV and Radio Correspondent

ITV's Saturday sports programme, "World of Sport," will be replaced next autumn after a run of 20 years and the amount of time devoted to sports coverage on Saturday afternoons will be halved.

The present four or five hours of sport will be reduced to two, except on special occasions, and the emphasis will be on live sport.

Among the attractions will be live coverage of domestic athletics, the contract which ITV wrested from the BBC last July at a cost of £10,500,000 for the next five years beginning in April.

The contract is one of several factors to have influenced John Bromley, chairman of ITV sport, and other ITV chiefs in their decision to reshape Saturday afternoon coverage.

Declining audiences for "World of Sport" from an average 10 years ago of 4,500,000 to about 5,100,000 have persuaded them that the public have lost their enthusiasm for recorded sport.

The decision also coincides with the switching of racing, the stand-by of "World of Sport," to Channel 4. The move is now being worked out.

Another important consideration was the increasing amount of sport being shown on Sunday afternoons. As one senior ITV executive explained: "You can't have 'World of Sport' on Saturday and Sunday."

Mr Bromley said last night: "No final decision has been taken on dropping the 'World of Sport' title or on the final format for the new-style programme." It is expected that presenters, such as Dickie Davies, who was voted Sports Presenter of the Year by the television and radio industry last year, will continue with EEC.

Mr Bromley added: "The Daily Telegraph that the non-payment of wages was worse than slavery. At least slave owners were obliged to feed their workers," he said. "Many of our members are going hungry."

Last week the Socialist-led coalition Government of Prime Minister Soares moved that unpaid workers in companies whose activities were completely paralysed could draw unemployment benefits. But union critics say this affects a tiny proportion of the total.

Senhor Joao Correia, a union lawyer, told me: "There is no lack of laws to enforce the payment of wages to workers. The problem lies in getting speedy court action."

It normally takes between two and three years for cases to be heard and what worker has money for food, rent or clothes can afford to wait that long?"

The Trade Union Confederation has intervened in a number of cases and has even laid criminal charges against the Government's labour inspectorate, which is supposed to see that labour contracts and conditions are adhered to; in other words, that workers are paid.

The situation is not expected to improve in the short term, while the economy remains depressed and affected by the 15-month-old austerity programme imposed by the International Monetary Fund to reduce a massive deficit in external borrowings.

One group of citizens, however, has no complaints. The nation's 250 Parliamentary Deputies are considering proposals to give themselves a 52 per cent. raise, bringing monthly wages to £450, or six times the national minimum.

Previous similar proposals have always drawn rare unanimity to the House and few expect things to be different this time.

On the new agreement has been signed, it will have to go through legal and parliamentary procedures in both countries which is expected to take several months.

In a second major move last week to stop Spain being used by foreign criminal elements by foreign criminal elements the Spanish Cabinet approved a new alien draft law giving courts sweeping new powers to expel "undesirables."

The legislation, which has to be approved by the Spanish Parliament, gives judges the right to deport foreigners who are illegally in the country, are engaged in crime or are considered to be undesirable.

SNOW HAMPERS ASBESTOS HUNT

Snow falling in parts of South Yorkshire has hampered efforts by squads of workmen trying to locate and remove asbestos traces around Rotherham and Doncaster. The asbestos was carried by the wind from a warehouse fire in Sheffield, eight miles away, on Friday.

Thousands of children were told to stay away from schools until the asbestos was all found and removed. Playgrounds and playing fields in about 30 schools are known to be contaminated.

BEEFING IT UP

Ireland now supplies 12 per cent of all the beef eaten in the United Kingdom, the Irish Meat Board said yesterday.

The Daily Telegraph, Monday, December 17, 1984 11

Fowler attacks drug firms over 'fear' campaign

By DAVID FLETCHER Health Services Correspondent

A COUNTER-ATTACK has been launched by Mr Fowler, Social Services Secretary, to criticisms of the Government's plan to limit the number of drugs doctors may prescribe on the N.H.S.

In a letter to all MPs, he attacks the pharmaceutical industry's advertising campaign against the plan as "seriously misleading" and says it raises "unnecessary fears."

Rocket Products is singled out for posing "highly tendentious questions" about the proposals in a letter it sent to M.P.s.

Mr Fowler says that only 10 per cent of drugs are affected by his proposal. They include "home remedies" such as cough medicine, tonics, laxatives, minor pain killers, vindictive remedies and low dose vitamins and tranquillizers or sedatives.

Although many brand-name products in these groups would no longer be available on the N.H.S., there would still be a range of drugs which doctors could prescribe.

He promises as nonsense that the proposals will result in a two-tier health system with wealthy patients being able to buy privately the drugs of their choice.

Simply expensive

"There is no question of a second-class service. The Government has decided there is no reason for the N.H.S. to provide every drug which the pharmaceutical industry wants to put on the market particularly when many of them have no advantages in treatment and are simply more expensive."

Mr Fowler also denies drug company claims that their business will be severely affected by the changes, or that the plan will inhibit investment for research.

He says that if research finds new medicines which offer real improvements in treatment, it will be possible to add them.

The annual cost of drugs to the N.H.S. is £1,500 million and Britain is virtually the only country in the world not to impose some kind of limit on the number of drugs which can be prescribed at taxpayers' expense.

Hooded rapist attacks girls at knife-point

Police are hunting a hooded rapist who held up two 18-year-old girls at knifepoint early yesterday and forced them into a field where one was raped and the other sexually assaulted.

They were walking home from a disco along the A41 from Berkhamsted to Hemel Hempstead, Herts, when they were attacked by the man described as tall, stockily built with a "local accent."

On Christmas Day "Other Peoples' Holiday" will look at the attitude of non-celebrants — Hindus, Moslems, Jews, Buddhists and atheists.

Det. Chief Supt. Tony Hill, in charge of the investigation, said the description matched that of a man being sought for the rape of a 15-year-old girl a few miles away on Nov. 25.

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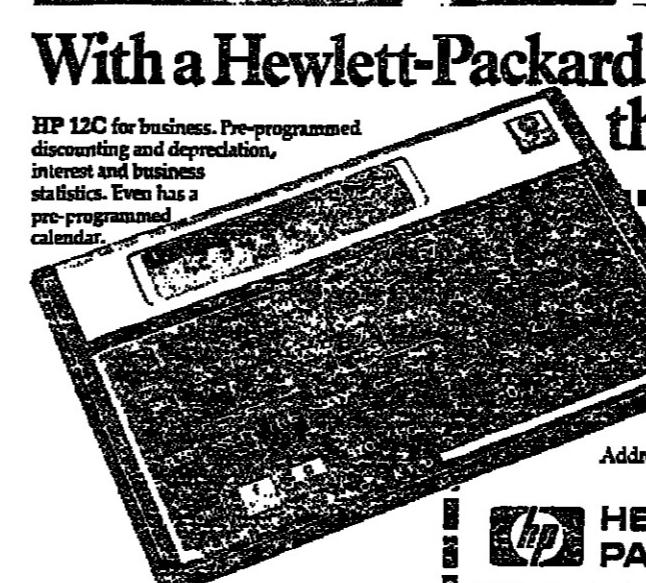
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INVESTMENT & BUSINESS

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Navy man gets the hi tech team ship-shape

FOUNDING UP eleven of America's fiercest competitors in an attempt to set up a joint research project was like asking Republicans and Democrats to agree on a budget. But as President of Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation retired Admiral Bobby Ray Inman has achieved the previously unimaginable in just one year.

Mr Inman, a former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has steered America's first joint commercial venture in high technology through its first rocky year. He presided over a \$65-million-a-year budget and a company that has as its members some of America's mightiest corporations - Control Data, Digital Equipment, Honeywell, Lockheed, Boeing and National Semiconductor.

The brain-child of Control Data is chairman William Norris, the corporation was created to help computer and microelectronics companies meet the challenge from the government-supported research and development programmes in Japan and Western Europe. By pooling resources - money, technology and scientists - for long-term projects, Mr Norris could maintain the United States' edge in the technology race that is rapidly changing industrial economies.

Americans are so preoccupied with the threat that the Japanese will do to the United States

THE AMERICAN INTERVIEW

in computers what they did in cars and televisions that the government relaxed formally stringent anti-trust laws and gave MCT the go-ahead to set up a joint commercial research venture.

According to Mr Inman the easy part was getting government approval. The hard part was sitting down with companies not in the habit of sharing closely-guarded technological developments and working out a long-term plan for the corporation.

"The first thing we had to deal with was the problem that while the companies had agreed on how to finance the operations, and they had defined the programmes they wanted, they had not reached any agreement on assembling the talent," notes Mr Inman.

Originally it was expected that the corporations involved in each of the four research areas would "loan" scientists from their own in-house departments to work at the corporation. But Mr Inman soon found that while the companies were willing to fork out money they balked at providing their best manpower. In the end, he put together a team of 238 scientists and technicians, most of whom came from outside the companies.

"The idea of working in an arena of long-term funding, guaranteed for very long-term goals was appealing to a lot of scientists," said Mr Inman. "They knew that at the corporation they wouldn't have to argue with a company's controller for continued funding, wouldn't get pulled off of some long-range project to work on this year's company product in trouble. Therefore, the pool of talent applying to be part of the corporation from all over the country simply turned out in a good many cases to be better than what was offered by the companies."

The corporation has four main areas of research - semiconductor packaging, software technology, computer-aided design for large-scale integration and advance computer architecture. The latter, which in layman's terms means artificial intelligence and super-computers, research takes up half of the \$34 million budget.

What is not yet clear is whether United States companies will take that new technology, incorporate it into their business strategy and take part of it to the market place at a much faster rate with quality control.

Lauren Chambis

Hambro Life for requote after BAT £664m bid

By JOHN RUDOFSKY

HAMBRO LIFE Assurance Exchange with 10 p.c. before shares are expected to return to round off the deal with directors bringing acceptances up to 38.5 p.c.

Hambro Life's fate was sealed when its planned £1 billion merger with Charterhouse J. Rothschild failed last June. Mr Weinberg's long-standing deputy Sydney Lipworth, both of whom join the main BAT board, admitted yesterday Hambro Life had no ambitions that it could not see through itself.

The news is likely to fire an already lively sector with recent share price rises from Britannia Assurance and Refuse.

Britannia Arrow has long been a speculator's favourite: over M & C out of the Kleinwort Benson stable and Robert Fleming's Save & Prosper must now be possible targets for the strong list of buyers on both sides of the Atlantic who may follow BAT's example.

BAT's chairman Patrick Sheehy said yesterday he went for Hambro Life, Britain's biggest unit-linked life company with £3.3 billion fund under management, to expand the range of financial services the group can offer to individuals. He is not interested in financial concerns serving the corporate customers. He ruled out banking, money-raising operations and stockbroking in the short term.

Mr Sheehy confirmed he first secured the agreement of Hambro Life's Mark Weinberg, the 55-year-old chairman who built up the business over 15 years then won over Charterhouse J. Rothschild which has 24.9 p.c. and Guardian Royal

Worst ever month for National Savings

By RICHARD NORTHEDGE

NATIONAL SAVINGS suffered its worst month ever in November, with withdrawals from accounts exceeding new savings by a record £61.7 million last month — mainly because of massive encashments of gravy bonds once the annual bonus was paid.

An improvement in the incentives for those who retained these index-linked certificates seems to have proved insufficient to prevent the huge withdrawals.

Only £11 million of new index-linked certificates—known as gravy bonds even though there is no age qualification now—were sold during November. But existing holders of £150 million of certificates cashed them in.

The effect more than wiped out the net sales of other National Savings products, leaving total withdrawals of £472 million exceeding the total new sales of £410 million.

Bonuses on gravy bonds not encashed, and thus credited to investment holdings, together with other interest, nevertheless technically increased the value of investments by a record £269 million, giving an overall net £207 million increase in state funding.

This contribution is less than

CBI signals output rise

INDICATIONS of a pick-up in manufacturing output and a renewed burst of price rises over the next four months emerge in the Confederation of British Industry's latest monthly industrial survey today.

Manufacturers expect output to increase at the levels achieved during the summer after an autumn dip. The number of companies planning price rises is the second-highest this year.

David Wrigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said: "Output appears to have stabilised at the fairly steady increase seen

over the last few months although growth is likely to be slower than in the earlier part of the year."

The survey, based on replies from 1,544 manufacturers, shows 30 p.c. anticipate an increase in output volume up to the middle of April and 12 p.c. a fall.

A total of 42 p.c. of companies are predicting price rises and 5 p.c. a cut. Eighteen per cent say order books are above normal levels and 27 p.c. say they are lower than normal, while 19 p.c. report export order books above usual levels and 26 p.c. below.

COMPUTERS

Systems in search of people

NEW business and new technology were to have been the country's saviours: creators of wealth and jobs. But so far it has not quite turned out like that. One important reason, as a growing number of companies are discovering, is that jobs are being created but the people are not available to fill them.

Report after study after survey is showing that specialised manpower is scarce and getting scarcer, and that not nearly enough is being done to prevent the problem getting more acute. Manufacturers, users, and service companies all lack the right staff.

David Gardner, director of the Electronic Engineering Association, summed it up: "If we don't get the skilled engineers soon, we may not need any at all in the long run because the industry will have died." He reckons we are 20 p.c. short of skilled electronic engineers now and the signs are that this is likely to get worse.

That is at the manufacturing industry end of the business. As Jim Wiltshire, head of occupationally policy at the Manpower Services Commission, points out, the numbers required are not large, but they are key people to Britain's success in this sector. David Pardo, head of training at Data Logic, explains that such

people can come only from universities.

But university cuts, said Dr Douglas Eyreys, director general of the Computing Services Association, have hit electronics. Yet his members need graduates not necessarily with specialist degrees but with experience of computers.

Computing services grew by 20 p.c. this year and the companies complain that if they could get the staff, it could have been faster—perhaps 30 p.c.

The dangers are that exports are not being held back, there is not enough import substitution and end-users are not implementing information technology fast enough, said Dr Eyreys.

Other countries like the United States were installing electronics faster and although the initial impact is to displace people, the increased efficiency is generating greater jobs overall, he added. Britain could be losing that race.

Computer users themselves are experiencing similar shortages. In relatively small companies, there is a need for specialist skills in planning where, in adapting a system for the organisation, and in operating it.

Employers have been looking for trained people and not training anybody themselves

general of the Institute of Data Processing Management. This is partly, explained Mr Plessey, because there is a shortage of skilled people, so companies often take them from each other making it uneconomical to train them because they soon leave.

A self-perpetuating problem is established, he said. "The inevitable result is shortages of operators, programmers and young analysts," added Mr Cliff. Both the MSC and Data Logic have identified that shifts in the pattern of demand make this even harder to cope with.

As users get more sophisticated, and pre-packaged software is more widely available (sometimes you can create tailor-made programs with software aids), there is a shift from the traditional humdrum programming to a more elaborate and wider-ranging approach.

Between 1983 and 1984 50 p.c. more software consultants/business analysts/programmers will be needed among operators and programmers. "The scale of change should be manageable to retraining," said Mr Wiltshire.

Unfortunately there is little indication that pronouncements from the committee under Mr Butcher, Junior Industry Minister, and the studies from the National Economic Develop-

The Chancellor has abandoned any plans he might have had to tax the lump sums Civil Servants and others receive on retirement. But the lump sum is only the tip of the pensions iceberg, writes Clifford German.

LUMPS IN LAWSON'S THROAT

more than one hundred Members of Parliament signed the Early Day motion opposing any move to tax the lump-sum payments many pensioners are entitled to take on retirement. It became a minor issue in the Southgate by-election last week, and the Chancellor responded to pressure not to tax lump sums related to service already earned. So there is no need for anyone to take early retirement in an attempt to beat the next Budget.

But as a back bench revolt the pensions issue has fallen well short of the fury Sir Keith Joseph aroused with his plans to make middle class parents pay more for their children's university education, and the Chancellor has refused to promise to exempt lump-sum entitlements for future service or to guarantee other aspects of the pension industry's continued tax immunity in his search for new sources of revenue.

He may simply be standing on his dignity. But he may also be testing the strength of the opposition to see what and where its strengths are. He may well be working on the principle that he was able to get away with abolishing tax relief on life assurance premiums on policies taken out after the last Budget, and given that do the same with pensions.

The debate goes back to September last year when the Inland Revenue produced a paper outlining the possible yield of taxing the pensions industry. Taxing lump sums at 30 p.c. could yield about £650 million a year, and a 30 p.c. tax on the dividend income of existing pension funds could generate as much as £2.25 billion a year, a tempting plum for a Chancellor known to be searching for additional income to allow him to cut income tax without inflating the budget deficit.

Apart from the practical attraction of a new source of revenue, the Chancellor could well argue that continuing tax exemption for pension funds actively discriminates against self-reliance, positively encourages mass dependence on institutions to take care of the future, and is quite out of joint with the Government's brave new plans for making us all self-reliant, capitalistic and directly involved in the success of the country's economic performance.

In particular tax exemption for pension funds is unfair to those

of us who like to provide for our old age by investing savings from taxation income which is promptly taxed a second time. Supporters of tax exemption for pension funds can only counter by arguing that pensions are a form of deferred pay or possibly a form of insurance rather than an investment, although even that latter argument looks weak after the 1983 Budget.

The best practical argument against abolishing the tax advantages of pensions funds is, however, the analogy with tax relief on mortgages. If one goes, the case for the other is seriously weakened. But while one survives the other ought to be safe. And Mrs Thatcher once again made it clear this week that mortgage tax relief is safe with her. Therefore Nigel nibbles away at its intellectual foundations at his peril.

If the Chancellor does decide to press on, however, there are several ways of achieving what he wants. The obvious argument in favour of taxing lump sums is that they effectively escape all direct taxation while actual pensions are taxed as income when they are received.

Supporters of tax-free lump sums have to fall back on practical arguments. Many people have made plans which depend on their tax-free lump sums to pay off mortgages or to buy businesses, and those over 50 might not now have time to top up their contributions even if they were allowed to.

Payroll tax

Taxing employees' contributions alone would lead to strong pressure to shift all future contributions onto the employer, making most new company pension schemes non-contributory.

Taxing employees on pension contributions from the employer as it they were perks would be even more unpopular and would probably bring most company schemes to a halt.

Making employers' contributions to pension funds non-deductible as a business expense would treat them worse than other business expenses and would effectively act as a payroll tax, which would inevitably increase unemployment.

Determined employers could respond by ceasing to fund their pensions and paying future pensions out of future income, but that would make pensions much more insecure if the companies went out of business.

That leaves taxing the investment income of the funds themselves. It has the practical advantage that the man in the street might be just as likely to blame the pension funds for any increase in contributions or reduction in benefits which it caused. The Chancellor would certainly claim that pension funds have enjoyed dividends and profits well in excess of inflation over the past five years largely as a result of the Government's own policies.

The Lombard Street column by Christopher Fildes will resume next week.

Bath snubs Beazer

Record forecast for shopbuilders

ORDERS for commercial building work will "increase to new heights in each of the three years to 1986" says a report from the National Economic Development Office.

It says the construction industry is having a far better recovery than forecast six months ago, with factories, offices and shops leading the way.

It was expected that construction groups would have a 2.5 p.c. growth in business this year, but it now looks like being 4 p.c.

Growth rate in commercial work for free-enterprise is expected to be 5 p.c., followed by a 4 p.c. rise in volume next year and a further increase of 3 p.c. in 1986.

"Construction forecasts 1984-86, £10 NEDO Books, London."

Hang Seng up

THE HANG SENG index closed 1.8 p.c. up on the week at 1,142.09 largely as a result of confirmation that Hutchinson Whampoa had made the HK\$350m (241.30m) premium payment on the Hong Kong listed site in Hong Kong. It also became clear last week that the company had completed HK\$260m (£51m) of infrastructure works on the site.

Jock quits Laing

J. C. "JOCK" DOUGLAS is resigning as an executive and a shareholder of Laing & Crichton at the end of the financial year next April but will remain as a consultant.

Mr Douglas was the senior partner of stockbrokers McCafferty & Co which merged with Laing & Crichton two years ago. Earlier this year Mercantile House bought a 23.9 p.c. stake in Laing and will take over the remainder on the same terms when Stock Exchange rules allow.

Property prospects

THERE ARE SIGNS that major American real estate brokers are eying the British market and there is speculation that one of the largest United States groups poised to take over one of our biggest house estate agents. In tomorrow's commercial property column Bruce Kinloch will reveal one deal which looks likely to come on.

By Michael Becket

Thomas Cook set to boost Midland

By ANNE SEGALL

THOMAS COOK, now owned by Midland Bank, will make a record contribution to profits this year, thus going some way towards offsetting the disappointing results expected from other parts of the group, notably Samuel Montagu.

Preliminary indications are that trading profits at Cook will top £1 million in the year to October 31 against £12 million in 1983, a record year. The rising profits trend at Cook will be a source of considerable satisfaction to senior management. Two years ago, Cook plunged into losses and was forced to cut staff as part of a major rationalisation programme.

Now the company is on an expansionary tack once more with plans to open another 40 branches covering all facilities for travellers cheque and foreign exchange facilities. The major success story for Cook over the past two years has been business travel, with sales in November and December already running at levels nearly 40 p.c. higher than in the same months last year. The travellers cheque and foreign exchange operations are, however, still the key profit earners.

Thomas Cook suffered some embarrassment recently, losing branches.

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Clothing jobs pay cost of threadbare deal

THE principle of free trade is more honoured in the breach than the observance, and it is not hard to see why. Governments in every country are confronted by powerful and vocal industrial lobbies clamouring for controls on imports to protect jobs.

The employment costs of competition from abroad on particular industries and regions and the political perils of ignoring them, are plainly visible.

The losers from protection have no such clout. They include other industries who must pay extra for their inputs and exporters whose markets overseas are constrained because those countries cannot earn more foreign exchange, as well as consumers who have to pay higher prices in the shops. But their losses, however large and hard to identify, which is a poor recipe for successful political mobilisation.

The power of the producer lobby reaches its apothosis in agriculture and the scandals of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Community. But not far behind follows textiles and clothing, where the industry exerts an influence quite disproportionate to its economic significance.

Textiles and clothing are the only manufactured goods to be specifically exempted from the world trade rules laid down by GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade), which stipulates equal treatment between countries.

They have their own regime—the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA)—which limits low-cost imports from the developing world into the majority of industrial countries, including the EEC.

The present MFA expires in 1986, and negotiations on what should succeed it begin next year. That is the context for a recently-released report on the MFA's impact in Britain by Prof. Aubrey Silverston of Imperial College, London, commissioned by the Department for Trade and Industry.

For all its exemplary caution, Prof. Silverston's analysis leads to the inescapable conclusion that Britain would gain from a phased out of the MFA. Prices would be lower so consumers would have more to spend on other things. Economic output would be higher, partly because of the boost to domestic

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY



By Frances Williams

consumption, and partly because exports would be more competitive.

This would mean additional jobs in other industries and services, at least enough to outweigh the loss of jobs in the textile and clothing industry itself, and probably a good deal more.

Of course, the precise arithmetic can be challenged, but the basic argument surely does not. The record suggests that the MFA has failed to protect either jobs or market share. In the past 10 years, employment in textiles and clothing has halved, compared with a drop of one-quarter of manufacturing as a whole.

This in turn was due less to competition from imports than to rapid productivity growth, driven by the slump.

As for market share, restrictions on low-cost imports from developing countries have simply diverted trade to unrestricted (and higher-cost) suppliers from the EEC and, latterly, from Spain and Portugal. Import penetration has increased from less than 10 p.c. in the early 1960s, when MFA-type restrictions were first introduced, to 35 p.c. today.

In the MFA's favour, Prof. Silverston argues that it has facilitated much-needed investment and automation in the industry, mainly through raising prices and so profits. But this process has not been help-

ful to jobs. Nor, after nearly 25 years of restraints, can the industry plead it needs still more time to adjust behind tariff walls.

If the MFA were phased out over four to five years, import prices might fall by 10 p.c. and prices in the shops by 5 p.c., the Silverston report estimates. This would represent a gain to consumers of about £500 million a year (at 1982 prices).

At the moment, Britain's consumers, including the poorest, effectively make a gift of more than £300 million to exporting countries by way of higher prices, with the remainder going to domestic producers.

On the other hand, abandonment of the MFA would cost the textile and clothing industry jobs—perhaps 10,000 to 50,000 over the next few years, though this compares with projected losses of up to 150,000 for the early 1980s. However, happens to the MFA. Some marginal firms will be driven out of business.

But at minimum, the consumer is paying more than £10,000 for the privilege of protecting each textile job, and some economists would put the figure much higher. This is twice average annual earnings in the industry, and tops the £10,000 limit on cost per job the Government has built into its new regional aid package.

The implication must be that protecting the textile and clothing industry does not represent good value for money. More jobs could be created elsewhere for the same outlay.

It would be wrong to gloss over the real hardships that will be caused in the Midlands and North of England by the further rundown of the industry. Displaced workers may not necessarily be in the right place or have the right skills for other jobs springing up elsewhere.

That is why Prof. Silverston's recommendation for special government action to help bring new jobs to textile and clothing areas makes sense.

But even with such compensation, Britain would be better off without the MFA. The Government should grasp the political nettle and tell the EEC, which will negotiate on its behalf, that it wants the next MFA to be the last.

* * * * *

The Multi-Fibre Arrangement and the United Kingdom Economy, by Prof. E. A. Silverston (HMSO, £4.80).

ICI tones up for the 900p ascent

STAND by for a surge in the price of Imperial Chemical Industries, already up from 580p in the summer to 714p on Friday night.

The share price is about to get caught in a two-way squeeze which could easily drive it to 900p—and even then the shares will not be dear.

The first pressure is that the re-rating of the shares, which has already begun, has further to go. Over the past couple of years, ICI has undergone a significant strategic management style, exemplified by last week's aggressive purchase of Beatrice Chemicals.

No longer will it be the passive victim of the ups and downs of the heavy chemical cycle. Yes, it is still in heavy chemicals and cannot escape the peaks and troughs of the market place. But it is getting ever deeper into high margin specialty areas—pharmaceuticals, composite plastics for engineering and agricultural chemicals.

No longer will ICI be the helpless hostage to European exchange rates. Yes, the rate of exchange between sterling and the D-mark is still important, but it is getting deeper into high margin specialty areas—pharmaceuticals, composite plastics for engineering and agricultural chemicals.

Wall Street is still looking for profits of over £1 billion pre-tax from ICI for 1984, with further progress towards £1.2 billion in 1985. The feeling now is that the Beatrice deal, coupled with other organic growth in the United States, will be sufficient to send profits up yet again in 1986.

If it is, ICI will probably have beaten the "chemical cycle" for good.

By spending \$750 million over the real hardships that will be caused in the Midlands and North of England by the further rundown of the industry. Displaced workers may not necessarily be in the right place or have the right skills for other jobs springing up elsewhere.

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The change that has taken place within the company, and the probability that the shares are about to be further re-rated following the Beatrice acquisi-

QUESTOR

David Brewerton

tion, will make it desirable for them to build up an ICI shareholding to maintain their market "weighting."

A third factor comes into play, which have pointed out on several occasions, United States analysts have been rather keener on ICI than their London counterparts. Their confidence has been slightly undermined, however, by the fact that there have been willing United Kingdom sellers prepared to deliver shares to United States buyers.

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The most likely outcome will be that the shares will be repatriated to the United Kingdom to be placed with institutions, although there remains the outside chance that City Investing's liquidators will be made an offer for the entire shareholding which they could not refuse.

The saga is taking place at a most interesting stage in Blagden's development. City Investing's stake arose when it exchanged an interest in a jointly owned Blagden subsidiary for shares in Blagden itself.

It had that deal not been struck, Blagden would probably now itself be the target of having to buy out the City Investing stake in the subsidiary. In the event, it only has to consider what will happen to a near 30 p.c. equity shareholding.

Blagden is keen to hit the acquisition trail itself, and the market has been standing by for a capital raising. The need to place the City Investing stake does not rule out the sale of more shares in a rights offer. In fact, it makes it easier for parcels of shares of sufficient size to interest institutions to be put together.

Results from Blagden for 1984 are expected at the end of February, and that would be the logical time for the likely share moves to be made.

Meanwhile the shares at 126p stand on a yield of 8.5 p.c. and prospective price/earnings ratio of about nine. One to follow in 1985.

Options with Johnson Group

BLAGDEN INDUSTRIES, the steel drums, chemicals and plastics business, has been put into an uncertain position by the vote last week that the United States holding company, City Investing, should be wound up.

City Investing holds nearly 50 p.c. of the voting equity in Blagden, and that shareholding will have to be disposed of once the liquidation gets under way.

Because of its cyclical remnants, ICI shares will probably usually stand at a small discount to the equity market as a whole but that should be nearer 10 p.c. than 30 p.c.—which would push the shares to 900p.

So on a "fundamental" grounds, the shares are set to rise, but that is without the other half of the squeeze. Believe it or not, there is a considerable number of major United Kingdom institutions which have no shareholding in ICI.

The change that has taken place within the company, and the probability that the shares are about to be further re-rated following the Beatrice acquisi-

Notts has not made much of a case for acquiring Johnson, either to its own shareholders or to those of its intended victim.

The rationale from Nottingham's point of view seems to extend no further than a similarity of processes between Johnson's cleaning and Nottingham's textile finishing companies.

Since Nottingham has said it would maintain Johnson's own identity within the group should it succeed in the bid, there is unlikely to be any great synergy for either side.

Nottingham appears to be the battle drifts to a conclusion this week, the chances of Nottingham being successful are still less than even as it has to pick up 60 p.c. of the equity to gain voting control.

Shareholders not prepared to retain its independence, or at least to put it up on the present terms, Nottingham opened the bidding at 410p a share and raised it to 440p, its final offer. That represents 10-8 times

forecast earnings for the twelve months to mid-1985, and a yield of 6 p.c. on the forecast dividend. Not exactly knock-out terms.

It cannot be argued, on recent evidence, that Johnson is worth an especially fancy price. Profits were static in 1984 and the coming year growth will be relying to a significant extent on the success of the United States acquisition policy.

Nottingham, however, seems confident of that policy, for it suggests that with its cash be hind Johnson, it could be acquired.

As the battle drifts to a conclusion this week, the chances of Nottingham being successful are still less than even as it has to pick up 60 p.c. of the equity to gain voting control.

Shareholders not prepared to retain its independence, or at least to put it up on the present terms, Nottingham opened the bidding at 410p a share and raised it to 440p, its final offer. But if Johnson is as successful with its acquisition trail in America as it hopes, the shares are worth retaining.

Barclays Bank of Zimbabwe Limited

Grindlays Bank p.l.c. Zimbabwe

Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe Limited

To all holders of Blocked Assets in Zimbabwe

We wish to remind holders of blocked assets that all application forms to invest in 4% government of Zimbabwe 12/20 year (external) bonds must be in the hands of their agents/bankers in Zimbabwe before 31st December 1984, to ensure that such applications can be lodged with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe by that date.

Those holders of blocked assets who have not already responded to notices in this respect from their Zimbabwean agents/bankers are recommended to do so immediately, giving details together with market values of their assets in Zimbabwe.

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Every year more than 300 million people go through our stores. Is your payroll over溢满 of sales, old stock, bonyard worth hundreds and thousands of pounds and need clearance help?

We can offer you the opportunity to sell to us.

Or we can help you to reduce your overheads when buying from us.

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THIS WEEK IN THE CITY

Grandmet image put to the test

SHAREHOLDERS in Grand Metropolitan, the international hotels, brewing and leisure concern, will be hoping that the group will be weighing in with further full year profits on Thursday and maybe even putting a penny or two extra in the cap by way of a higher dividend.

At the interim stage the group pushed pre-tax profits from £113.6 million to £147 million, helped by higher British brewing profits and a strong American performance.

The food side, however, was disappointing and its trading profits fell back sharply from £15.5 million to £7.7 million.

Apart from this division, however, the management activities improved with chairman Sir Christopher Grinstead did warn of a slowdown in the second half.

Despite this, the American activities have continued to do well. Operating income in the nine months ended June rose from \$108 million to \$142.2 million, helped by the increase in sales of cigarettes, the timing of price increases and lower tobacco costs.

The group has also been active on the takeover front. After abandoning the proposed sale of its American cigarette business Liggett & Myers, it made an approach for Horizon Travel — rejected — and then agreed a \$124 million (£85.5

million) offer for Quality Care. The group has also recently bought a 25 per cent stake in the Italian drinks company Cinzano.

For the full year profits, which should have benefited from a strong dollar, are being pitched at around \$345 million (£295.2 million) pre-tax, while the total dividend is anticipated to rise from an adjusted 8.02p to 9.2p.

Shareholders in Distillers will also be hoping they too will be able to raise their glasses, after the company announces interim results on Friday.

Profits in 1983-84 were adversely affected by the collapse in the Latin American whisky market, and fell from £209.3 million to £191.8 million, but chairman John Connell has since forecast first half profits "comfortably in excess" of the very depressed comparable period while the full year outcome should show a "modest improvement."

In the first half, a better performance by United Glass, and something from the newly-acquired Somerset Importers, should have helped profits expand from £64.9 million to around £80 million pre-tax.

Over the full year, market analysts are forecasting pre-tax profits in the region of £220 million.

Malcolm Locke

DIVIDENDS DIARY

TODAY—Finals: GT Asia (Sterling) Fund, Great Western Resources Income, Pyke Holdings, Redcarne National Glass, Speciawalk, Whessoe.

INTERIM—Clytons, Davies G, Hall, Haworth, European Hams, Gold Mining Areas May and Hassell, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.

TUESDAY—Finals: Bush Radio, Jackson (J & H.B.), Trident Television, Watson and Phillips, Widmer, Tea Holdings.

INTERIM—Equity and Law Assurance Society, P and C Alliance Trust, Reed Executive, Torchmark.

WEDNESDAY—Finals: Chemring, Craystal Holdings, Flexello Castors and Wheels, Pict Interims: None Announced.

COMPANIES

Reckitt & Colman Australia (70.5 p.c. owned by Reckitt & Colman) Full year profits A\$38.8m (A\$1.4m). Turnover A\$50.5m (A\$27.0m). Extraordinary credit A\$5.36m (debit A\$1.82m). Final dividend 9c making 17c (16c). Turnover £1.06m. Eps 0.11p (1p 0.25p). Results do not include any contribution from Medic International acquired in November. As usual, no interim dividend. Wm Cook and Sons (Sheffield): First half pre-tax profit £304,000 (£248,000). Turnover £5.56m (£2.78m). Eps 3.34p (2.38p). Interim dividend 1.1p (1p) payable Jan. 14. Immediate order and workload position satisfactory. Remond: Board expects to pay off preference dividend arrears once audited accounts for 1983-85 are available. This is subject to confirmation of capital reorganisation proposals by High Court.

United Spring and Seal Group: Full year pre-tax profits £275,000 (loss £280,000) after interest charge of £58.9m (£55.4m). Turnover £26.8m (£25.2m). Extraordinary charge £26.5m (charge £1.07m). Eps 2.21p (1p 2.14p). Again no 2.21p.

J.W. Wassall: First half pre-tax profit £11,700 (£3,700). Turnover £1.31m (£1.25m). Eps 0.95p (0.75p). As usual, no interim dividend. Christmas trade date disappointing, but board confident full year profits will be less than last time's.

Tex Abrasives: First half pre-tax profit £166,700 (£163,400). Turnover £2.88m (£2.7m). Eps 3p (2p 1.5p). Interim dividend again 7.5p (5.5p) payable Feb. 4.

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GAVASKAR AND AMARNATH DASH ENGLAND HOPES

By MICHAEL CAREY in New Delhi

ENGLAND were permitted a tantalising glimpse of the promised land in the second Test in New Delhi yesterday when hostile bowling by Norman Cowans reduced India to 15 for two, before an unbroken partnership of 113 between Sunil Gavaskar and Mohinder Amarnath enabled them to end the day 17 runs ahead.

The growing assurance of this pair not only denied England another much-needed breakthrough in the final session, but also emphasised that while the pitch occasionally rewards bowling of all types, a certain amount of quirkish good fortune will be needed to dislodge batsmen intent mainly on survival.

Much may depend on how India negotiate the final day's morning session, when the pitch tends to offer a little more to the quicker bowlers, especially perhaps with today's 9.30 a.m. start.

Evidence of that was acquired first-hand by Robinson yesterday when, having added only three to his admirable 157, he had to leave the field when his right knee gave way.

The courageous skipper will be considered by the England selectors today and, after discussions with Lord's, a decision may be made whether Allott stays or if a replacement is sought.

Tony Brown, the England bowler who has been troubled by an undiagnosed back injury, was visited by a specialist surgeon in New Delhi yesterday in the hope of discovering if the problem can be put right to enable him to come on the tour.

The courageous skipper will be considered by the England selectors today and, after discussions with Lord's, a decision may be made whether Allott stays or if a replacement is sought.

"This would obviously be preferable to asking for a replacement, who would require some time to become accustomed to the game," said Brown.

But that is a possibility we cannot rule out, depending on what medical advice we are given."

Sivarama strikes

These were Lamb's departure, adjudged caught off bat and pad, Gower's lbw and Cowdrey, given out caught at slip when the ball might have hit boot rather than bat. On another day all might have enjoyed the benefit of the doubt.

If anything these episodes only increased Robinson's anxiety. After his departure, Downes and Edmonds carefully steered England 100 ahead, but hopes of the more substantial lead they required disappeared when Sivarama, who was warned to 61 in the innings with four wickets for 11 runs in 25 balls after lunch,

his six wickets left him with 18 in two Test matches, a phenomenal haul for any bowler. Let



David Gower, the England captain, and Paul Downton, the wicketkeeper, watch as India's captain, Sunil Gavaskar, smuggles a ball from Phil Edmonds past Chris Cowdrey at forward short leg.

so with some success in Bombay but now, aiming to hit a leg break over the top, he skied a comfortable catch to cover.

Meanwhile, Downton had passed his own first Test score, the 52 in Bombay, again mostly content to nudge and deflect and wait for the bad ball until after almost three hours of play. He had bowled more than most, and Kanti Dev held a good catch at slip.

The rest was, perhaps, predictable, with Poreck bowled by a googly and Ellison playing on what was, in the left-hander's words, "a very, very simple and kept low, so that England's last four wickets had gone for only 20 runs.

Gavaskar escapes

Their advantage was still formidable, psychologically, and Cowans, running in and finding more bounce than anyone, either, was able to do, and kept low, so that England's last four wickets had gone for only 20 runs.

Remarkably, they did not include Gavaskar, who first ball came back, narrowly cleared his off stump, and went for four runs. His apprehension was matched by Poreck, who, despite being in place of the Gackwad (upset stomach).

After being pounced on by two extremely rapid bouncers, Prabhakar drove lavishly at a wide one and was caught behind. Then Vengsarkar, not noticeably getting on, played on so emphatically that his off stump was dat-

ched by Poreck, who, despite being in place of the Gackwad (upset stomach).

Ellison goes close

Between these events Ellison must have come close to having Gavaskar lbw with an inswinger that hit his back leg, after which the Indian captain gradually began to locate the middle of the bat, while Amarnath played mostly with great assistance from the pitch.

He began with a hook for six off Cowans and though one ball from Ellison bounced to hit him just below the heart, and his captain shored up the shaky foundation.

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Ellison goes close

WALLABIES FIND ENERGY FOR GRAND FINALE

By JOHN MASON

Barbarians ... 30pts Australians ... 37

WE got our end of term bonanza at Cardiff. The head boy, Andrew Slack, left for pastures new on a high note. So did the chief prefect, Mark Ella, and it is rumoured that the games master, Alan Jones, was speechless.

For reasons not easy to fathom the arbiter of fairplay, René Hourquet, of France, decided that the lads needed encouragement and as his special treat gave Laws 17, 24 and parts of 26 the afternoon off.

Fifteen Australians, two Frenchmen, three Englishmen, four Irishmen, four Welshmen and two Scotsmen did not require that sort of assistance but on the basis that it is foolish to look a gift horse in the mouth the southern hemisphere contingent said "Good on you, sport!"

Forward passes, knock ons, various forms of offside and blatant obstructions were cheerfully ignored. Regrettably the match, which the Australians won fair and square in all other respects, was devalued to that

The Eighth Wallabies tour up the most successful tour Australia have ever made of Britain, ending by besting the Barbarians by five goals, a try and a penalty goal to two goals, three tries and two penalty goals or using the other yard-stick, by six tries to five.

Unkind itinerary

In a week which had involved the setting of the Grand Slam and a Wednesday victory at Pontypool, the Australians were invited to review the last waltz with a mildly jaundiced eye. The tour itinerary was unkind, to put it mildly.

All credit then to the 32 Australian players for remaining unruffled to the end. Credit, too, to the board of governors as it were, for their continued support. Charles Wilson, the manager, Alan Jones, the coach, and the little-known Alec Evans.

Mr Evans, the proud possessor of an exotic range of headgear, has been on this tour at the expense of the Australian Rugby Union as chief cook and bottle washer, a sort of deputy to Alan Jones, though not appointed at such.

Only the players and Mr Jones can evaluate how important he has been.

Last night the Australians had a final look at London from the river—a happy relaxed cruise away from an appreciative but demanding public.

Tonight the bulk of the party fly home proud but exhausted.



Andrew Slack, the Australian captain, celebrates his last match for the Wallabies by racing away to score a try.

Park pack tame gallant Plymouth

By ROGER HEYWOOD

TORRENTIAL rain shortly before the kick-off at Roehampton turned the pitch into a quagmire so sodden that half of 32 points was tribute to both Park and Albion.

Park's victory by two goals, a try and two penalty goals, a try and two penalty goals underlined the tenacity of their forwards, particularly in the first half.

It also reflected the goal-kicking skills of John Graves, who in atrocious conditions booted over another 10 points to add to the first.

In command But Park's pack, who were indistinguishable from two waddlers long before half-time, were individually recognisable by shape and height, controlled the first half.

Crawley, their splendid lock, clawed over for the first try and Sparkes, on the right wing, added in the second. Graves added the goal points to boot.

Reference—*S. L. Cotes (London)*.

SATURDAY'S RUGBY UNION RESULTS

TOUR MATCH

Barbarians ... 28 Australians ... 37

REPRESENTATIVE

Angle. Schools ... 26 N. & M. Schools ... 7

CORNWALL

Bath ... 13 Devon ... 12

Wales ... 12</div

